

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5952

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 LONDON 16496

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TAGS: CCMS, SENV

SUBJECT: CCMS: HAZARDOUS WASTES PILOT STUDY: LANDFILL

PROJECT MEETING, LONDON, OCTOBER 20-22, L975

1. SUMMARY: DELEGATES FROM BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, THE FRG, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, THE UK AND THE USA, AND OBSERVERS FROM THE EC AND JAPAN, ATTENDED THE CCMS HAZARDOUS WASTES PILOT STUDY LANDFILL PROJECT EXPERTS MEETING OCTOBER 20-22. THE MEETING WAS HOSTED BY THE UK DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT IN LONDON, AND INCLUDED TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS AND A ONE-DAY FIELD TRIP TO THE HARWELL LABORATORY, OXFORDSHIRE. DELEGATES WERE WELCOMED TO LONDON BY MR. A. KENNY, DIRECTOR OF WATER ENGINEERING, DOE, CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING. DURING THE FIRST DAY, REPORTS WERE PRESENTED ON NATIONAL LANDFILL RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE UK, USA, THE NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, FRG, CANADA, FRANCE, AND NORWAY. THE FINAL DAY WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF LANDFILL PRACTICE-- CHOICE OF SITES, DISPOSAL METHODS, LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS, AND MATHEMATICAL MODELLING. DURING THE MEETING, BELGIUM CIRCULATED AN OUTLINE FOR THE UNDERGROUND DISPOSAL PROJECT AND ANNOUNCED THE FIRST PROJECT MEETING AT BAD

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HOERSFELD, FRG, DECEMBER 16-17, 1975 (SEE PARA 12 BELOW).

DELEGATES SET A TIMETABLE FOR THE PROJECT, WITH A DRAFT FINAL REPORT PLANNED FOR SPRING 1977. THE NEXT FULL PILOT STUDY MEETING WILL BE IN BONN IN MAY 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. UK EXPERTS PRESENTED A REPORT ON LANDFILL PROJECTS IN THEIR COUNTRY. MR. SUMNER (DOE) BRIEFLY REVIEWED WASTE DISPOSAL POLICY IN THE UK, WHICH IS GENERALLY TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THE 1974 CONTROL OF POLLUTION ACT ASSIGNED THREE TASKS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES THROUGHOUT THE UK: A) TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF ALL TYPES OF WASTE AND ALL TYPES OF FACILITIES IN THEIR AREA; B) TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DISPOSAL OF WASTE IN THEIR AREA; AND C) TO INTRODUCE A LICENSING SYSTEM FOR DISPOSAL FACILITIES TO ENSURE THAT THE GOALS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN ARE MET. ALTHOUGH THE SURVEYS AND PLANS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED, THE LICENSING SCHEME WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1, 1976.

MR. OSMOND (UK) REVIEWED LANDFILL PRACTICE IN THE UK, NOTING THAT THERE ARE TWO MAIN INPUTS TO LANDFILL SITE SELECTION: GEOLOGY OF THE SITE (AND ITS HYDROLOGY), AND THE CHEMICAL NATURE OF THE WASTES INVOLVED. IN THE UK, LABORATORY WORK SUPPLEMENTS SITE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THESE TWO FACTORS.

3. THE USA (SANJOUR) HAS FOUND THE DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE A DIFFICULT ONE, BUT IN ORDER TO REGULATE SUCH WASTES A DEFINITION MUST BE FOUND. EPA MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT REGULATIONS, AND DEFINE ADEQUATE DISPOSAL PROCEDURES OF HAZARDOUS WASTES. THE USA IS SURVEYING A SELECTED SAMPLE OF LANDFILL SITES EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI WHERE THERE IS RAINFALL PRODUCING LEACHING AND A LONG HISTORY OF WASTE DISPOSAL. IF THE SITES CURRENTLY BEING MONITORED SHOW A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF LEACHING, FURTHER SITES WILL BE TESTED. MR. ROULIER (USA) DESCRIBED THE NATURE OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS BEING CONDUCTED AT US SITES. THE US IS ALSO CONDUCTING LINER STUDIES WITH TWO GOALS: MATCHING OF LINERS WITH CERTAIN TYPES OF WASTE, AND DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE SHORT TERM LINER TESTING PROCEDURES. THREE PROJECTS ON CONTAMINANT MOVEMENT IN SOILS ARE ALSO UNDER-

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WAY STUDYING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOIL, CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTAMINANTS, AND COMPOSITION OF THE WASTE, WHICH MAY HAVE GREAT EFFECT ON THE RATE OF MIGRATION OF THE CONTAMINANT. SITE SELECTION MUST BE BASED ON ALL THREE FACTORS.

4. DENMARK (WARNOE) DESCRIBED THE 1972 CHEMICAL POLLUTION LAW WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN 1976. DENMARK

HAS JUST OPENED A LARGE CHEMICAL TREATMENT PLANT (KOMMUN-EKEMI), AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY IS PREPARING A WORKING GROUP REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW AND OPERATION OF THE PLANT. DENMARK HAS ALSO HAD DIFFICULTY IN DEFINING HAZARDOUS WASTES, BUT A WORKING GROUP HAS DEVELOPED A LIST (NOT YET APPROVED BY THE ENVIRONMENT

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AGENCY) OF 34 CHEMICAL WASTES FOR WHICH CARDS DESCRIBING CHARACTERISTICS, HANDLING REQUIREMENTS, EFFECTS, AND ANTIDOTES ARE DISTRIBUTED TO PERSONS LIKELY TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THEM. DENMARK DOES NOT BELIEVE IN CO-DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTES, AND PURSUES RECYCLING PROGRAMS, WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

5. THE FRG (WOLBECK) DESCRIBED ITS COMPREHENSIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT OCTOBER 1. MR. WIEDEMANN (FRG) ELABORATED ON HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT, WHICH IS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE LAENDER; PRACTICES THEREFORE DIFFER FROM STATE TO STATE. THE

FRG REGARDS HAZARDOUS WASTE AS ESSENTIALLY A WATER RE-SOURCE PROBLEM, AND LESS SO ONE TO AIR AND SOIL. IN THE LATE 1960'S, THE FRG CLOSED DOWN MANY SMALL MUNICIPAL DUMPS, AND CONSOLIDATED THEM INTO SEVERAL HUNDRED WELL-SUPERVISED LANDFILLS THROUGHOUT THE FRG. LOCAL RESISTANCE TO ACCEPTANCE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE IS WIDESPREAD, AND MUNICIPAL DISPOSAL FACILITIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY WASTE THAT IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NORMAL RESIDENTIAL WASTE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY, NEVERTHELESS, TO DISPOSE SAFELY OF ITS HAZARDOUS WASTES; CONSEQUENTLY, MANY INDUSTRIES HAVE STARTED THEIR OWN DISPOSAL FACILITIES. LIKE MUNICIPAL SITES, THESE ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND CONTROL BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND MUST MEET THE SAME MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS. THESE PRIVATE SITES SUPPLEMENT 20 HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILLS THROUGHOUT THE FRG. LAGOONING IS STILL PRACTICED IN THE FRG, BUT THERE IS A DEFINITE TREND TO WITHDRAW HAZARDOUS WASTE FROM THE BIOLOGICAL/HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE AND TO USE THE SAME PROCEDURES EMPLOYED FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL. IN THIS REGARD, THE FRG REQUIRES LONG-TERM CARE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR CASES OF DISASTER.

6. CANADA (RATTRAY) HAS ITS PRINCIPAL REGULATORY POWER IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GENERATES INFORMATION FOR USE OF THE PROVINCES IN DEVELOPING CODES. CANADA'S CURRENT PROGRAM DEALS WITH LANDFILL LEACHATES, DEVELOPMENT OF LEACHATE TOXICITY PROCEDURES, SOIL/WATER INTERACTION, GROUND WATER, AND SOIL SAMPLING. CANADIAN AND US SCIENTISTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY HAVE CONDUCTED TWO SEMINARS ON LANDFILL LEACHING; THE THIRD SEMINAR EARLY IN 1976 WILL DEAL WITH SOIL ACIDITY. CANADA IS SATISFIED WITH ITS DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES, BUT IS ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP ANALYSIS TO MAKE POSSIBLE A PREDICTIVE CAPACITY ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF HAZARDOUS WASTES IN LANDFILL. CANADA BELIEVES A SOIL/WASTE INTERACTION MATRIX WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE A GUIDE TO EXPECTED SINK BEHAVIOUR. LABORATORY WORK (DR. FARQUHAR'S METHOD) HAS SHOWN A GOOD CORRELATION WITH FIELD INVESTIGATIONS IN TWO REAL SITUATIONS. PRINCIPAL RESULTS HAVE BEEN THAT CONCENTRATION OF HAZARDOUS WASTES CAN BE LOWERED BY LIQUID DILUTION ALONE, AND THAT THE ZONE INFLUENCED BY HAZARDOUS WASTES IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE SIZE OF THE LANDFILL. CANADA THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT A NUMBER OF SMALL SITES ARE PREFERABLE TO A FEW LARGE ONES, SINCE THE LATTER MAY FOSTER PROBLEMS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT THE SOIL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COPE WITH IT. IT WAS NOTED BY THE FRG AND THE USA, THAT, IN THIS RESPECT, THE POLI-

CIES OF THESE COUNTRIES AND CANADA ARE MOVING IN OPPOSITE
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DIRECTIONS.

7. FRANCE (JACHIMIAK) DESCRIBED ITS 1975 LAW REQUIRING
TREATMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES IN CERTAIN SPECIALLY-
DESIGNATED CELTERS. AS IN THE US, TWO DEFINITION PROB-
LEMS ARE INVOLVED: WHICH TYPES OF WASTE ARE HAZARDOUS,
AND WHICH TYPE OF TREATMENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THESE
WASTES. FRANCE BELIEVES THAT LANDFILL OF CERTAIN WASTES
IS PROBABLY PREFERABLE TO INCINERATION OR CHEMICAL TREAT-
MENT, SINCE THE LATTER MAY LEAD TO TRANSFER OF THE POLLU-
TION TO OTHER MEDIA. THE CURRENT FRENCH PROGRAM HAS
THREE ELEMENTS:

- A) INVENTORY OF THE EXISTING LANDFILL SITUATION;
- B) BASIC RESEARCH INTO THE PROBLEM;
- C) PILOT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT.

FRANCE INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A LIST OF DEFINED HAZARDOUS
WASTES AND THE NATURE OF THE RISKS INVOLVED FOR EACH LAND-
FILL, TO MODIFY SEVERAL EXISTING LANDFILLS, AND TO COM-
PARE CONDITIONS IN THE LANDFILL BEFORE AND AFTER MODIFI-
CATION. THIS PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE SLUDGE SOLIDIFICATION
AND WATERPROOFING OF AN EXISTING SITE. FRANCE'S OBJEC-
TIVE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IS TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT

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TREATMENT CAPACITY IN LANDFILL AND CHEMICAL TREATMENT TO
HANDLE FRANCE'S INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

8. NORWAY (KNAPP) HAS A TOTAL OF 300 LANDFILLS, TEN
INCINERATORS, AND ONE COMPOST PLANT FOR MUNICIPAL AND IN-
DUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL. IN THE HEAVILY POPULATED AND
INDUSTRIALIZED AREAS ALONG THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN COAST,
WHERE LAND IS SCARCE, INCINERATION AND PYROLYSIS ARE THE
OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO NORWAY. CURRENTLY, THE NORWEGIAN
PROGRAM HAS TWO GOALS: TO SURVEY HOW MUCH AND WHAT TYPE
OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES EXIST, AND WHAT THE HAZARDS AND
RECYCLING POSSIBILITIES ARE; AND TO DO FURTHER RESEARCH
ON LEACHATE FROM LANDFILLS. IN THE LATTER WORK, ESPECIAL-
LY, NORWAY HOPES TO PROFIT GREATLY FROM INTERNATIONAL IN-
FORMATION EXCHANGES SUCH AS THIS.

9. THE NETHERLANDS (MESU) DESCRIBED ITS DOMESTIC WASTE
LANDFILL RESEARCH, WHICH IS MAINLY FOCUSED ON A) THE
AMOUNT OF LEACHATE AND HOW TO INFLUENCE THE AMOUNT, B)
COMPOSITION OF THE LEACHATE AND HOW TO INFLUENCE IT, AND
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C) PURIFICATION PROCESSES IN THE SOIL. THE BASIC DUTCH
PRINCIPLE IS THAT WASTE WILL NEVER BE DUMPED BELOW THE
GROUND WATER TABLE, MEANING THAT THE GROUNDWATER CAN ONLY
BE POLLUTED IF LEACHATE FROM THE DUMP REACHES IT. CONSE-
QUENTLY, THE DUTCH RESEARCH IS AIMED AT LIMITING RAINWATER
OR OTHER MOISTURE REACHING THE WASTE, DUMPING ABOVE GROUND
LEVEL, AND PROMOTING THE FLOW OF WATER DOWN THE SIDES OF
THE DUMP, RATHER THAN ALLOWING IT TO ACCUMULATE AT THE
BOTTOM. THE GOAL OF THIS IS TO PROMOTE THE PENETRATION
OF THE LEACHATE INTO THE SUBSOIL, ASSUMING THAT THE LATTER
IS SUITABLE FOR LANDFILL, WHERE GRADUAL ATTENUATION WILL
TAKE PLACE.

10. ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING, DELEGATES WERE
TAKEN ON A FIELD TRIP TO HARWELL LABORATORY, OXFORDSHIRE,
AND TO THE HARWELL LYSIMETER IN SANDSTONE STRATA EXPERI-
MENT SITE IN UFFINGTON.

11. THE HARWELL GEOLOGICAL/CHEMICAL RESEARCH TEAM PRESENTED PROGRESS REPORTS ON UK LANDFILL RESEARCH, WHICH INCLUDES FIELD INVESTIGATION OF EXISTING DISPOSAL SITES, RESEARCH ON CONTAMINANT MOVEMENT UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF PREDICTIVE MODELS FOR APPLICATION TO FIELD PROBLEMS. AT THE UFFINGTON RESEARCH STATION TEN METER SQUARE LYSIMETERS CONTAINING UNDISTURBED SANDSTONE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR STUDYING CONTAMINANT MOVEMENT UNDER QUASI-FIELD CONDITIONS. DELEGATES WERE ABLE TO EXAMINE THE LYSIMETERS, THE EQUIPMENT FOR APPLYING LIQUIDS TO THEM, AND THE SYSTEM FOR MONITORING CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE APPLIED LIQUIDS. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO SIMILAR LYSIMETERS ESTABLISHED ELSEWHERE FOR STUDYING CONTAMINANT MOVEMENT IN CHALK AND GRAVEL, THE OTHER TWO GEOLOGIC ENVIRONMENTS OF MOST SIGNIFICANCE IN THE UK.

12. THE THIRD DAY WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION OF POINTS RAISED IN THE NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS. THE BELGIAN DELEGATION (STASSEN) CIRCULATED A PROJECT OUTLINE OF THE NEW UNDERGROUND DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES PROJECT OF THE PILOT STUDY, WHICH WILL BE LED BY BELGIUM. AN INVITATION TO THE FIRST PROJECT MEETING HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE NATO IS FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL ALLIED DELS. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 16-17,

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1975 IN BAD HOERSFELD, FRG, AND WILL INCLUDE A VISIT TO AN UNDERGROUND DISPOSAL FACILITY AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AND PROPOSED PROCEDURE. GOVERNMENTS WERE ASKED TO SEND DELEGATIONS TO THE FIRST MEETING AND TO SUBMIT ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO THE PROJECT LEADER.

13. THE THIRD DAY'S DISCUSSION COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS OF INTEREST TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. IN A DISCUSSION ON ATTENUATION, THE UK (OSMOND) RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHAT LEVEL OF GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION IS ACCEPTABLE. CANADA (RATTRAY) GENERALLY OPERATES ON POTABLE WATER STANDARDS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE AMOUNT OF WASTE, THE RATE OF MIGRATION, AND ATTENUATING FACTORS. AS THE US (LEHMAN) AND FRG (WOLBECK), POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, CANADA'S POLICY OF A NUMBER OF SMALL LANDFILL SITES IS NOT POSSIBLE IN THOSE COUNTRIES, WHERE THE ECONOMICS OF SMALL SITE MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION MITIGATE AGAINST A LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL SITES. UK POLICY IS TO PELATE WASTE DISPOSAL ON LAND WITH LAND RECLAMATION; IN THE FRG, THERE IS GREAT INTEREST IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBILITY OF TREATING ONE WASTE WITH ANOTHER, THUS REDUCING RESIDUE, AND IN THE POTENTIAL OF USING FLUE GAS FOR CHROMATE TREATMENT. THE NETHERLANDS TRIES TO TREAT CHEMICALLY ALL TYPES OF WASTE SUSCEPTIBLE TO TREATMENT, AND CERTAIN WASTES, SUCH AS ZINC, MAY NOT BE DUMPED EVEN IF ATTENUATION WILL OCCUR AT THE LANDFILL.

14. THE FRG (WOLBECK), AS PILOT COUNTRY, ANNOUNCED THE NEXT FULL PILOT STUDY MEETING IN BONN IN MAY 1976 AND SUGGESTED DIVISION OF THE FINAL LANDFILL PROJECT REPORT INTO A SURVEY OF A) THE EXISTING STATE OF LANDFILL PRACTICES AND B) THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, RESULTS, AND FUTURE NEEDS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. A TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE DRAFT (UNDERScoreD) FINAL REPORT WAS AGREED

UPON FOR SPRILG 1977. FINALLY, THE FRG PROPOSED, AND
THE UK, AS PROJECT LEADER, ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE
UK PAPER "DISCUSSION THEMES FOR OCTOBER 22" AS THE BROAD
OUTLINE FOR THE TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN THE FINAL PROJ-
ECT REPORT. MODIFICATIONS OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS, AS
INPUTS ARE RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, ARE,
OF COURSE, EXPECTED.
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